

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended): A replaceable nozzle assembly for use in a needleless syringe, said nozzle assembly comprising:

(a) an elongate particle acceleration nozzle having an upstream end, a downstream end and a passageway extending between the upstream and downstream ends, wherein said passageway has an upper convergent section, a lower divergent section, and a throat section connecting the convergent and divergent sections, and further wherein said nozzle has an outwardly projecting annular flange depending from its upstream end to provide an external shoulder; and

(b) a cylindrical particle filter medium which fits over and substantially surrounds the elongate particle acceleration nozzle and rests upon the external shoulder provided by the flange.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended): A reusable needleless syringe device comprising, in operative combination, a source of compressed gas, a particle container, and a nozzle comprising a cylindrical particle filter medium, said device further comprising a replaceable cartridge disposed within the device wherein said replaceable cartridge comprises:

(a) a housing having a top end and a bottom end, wherein the bottom end has an inlet aperture and an outlet aperture in fluid communication with each other by way of an internal gas passageway which extends through said housing;

(b) the particle container containing particles, said container arranged within the housing and positioned over the outlet; and

(c) the source of compressed gas in sealable communication with the inlet, wherein said source of compressed gas includes an exterior portion which extends away from the housing and an interior portion which extends through the inlet and partially into the gas passageway such that a breach can be made to the interior portion in order to release compressed gas from the source and into the gas passageway.

11. (previously presented): The reusable needleless syringe device of claim 10 wherein the nozzle is disposed within a replaceable nozzle assembly.

12. (currently amended): The reusable needleless syringe device of claim 11 wherein said replaceable nozzle assembly comprises:

(a) the nozzle having an upstream end, a downstream end and a passageway extending between the upstream and downstream ends, wherein said passageway has an upper convergent section, a lower divergent section, and a throat section connecting the convergent and divergent sections, and further wherein said nozzle has an outwardly projecting annular flange depending from its upstream end to provide an external shoulder; and

(b) ~~a cylindrical~~ the cylindrical particle filter medium, wherein the cylindrical particle filter medium ~~which~~ fits over and substantially surrounds the nozzle and rests upon the external shoulder provided by the flange.

13. (currently amended): A reusable needleless syringe device comprising, in operative combination, a source of compressed gas, a particle container, and a nozzle, said device further comprising a replaceable nozzle assembly disposed within the device wherein said replaceable nozzle assembly comprises:

(a) the nozzle having an upstream end, a downstream end and a passageway extending between the upstream and downstream ends, wherein said passageway has an upper convergent section, a lower divergent section, and a throat section connecting the convergent and divergent sections, and further wherein said nozzle has an outwardly projecting annular flange depending from its upstream end to provide an external shoulder; and

(b) a cylindrical particle filter medium which fits over and substantially surrounds the nozzle and rests upon the external shoulder provided by the flange.

14. (previously presented): The reusable needleless syringe device of claim 13 further comprising a replaceable cartridge disposed within the device, wherein said replaceable cartridge comprises:

(a) a housing having a top end and a bottom end, wherein the bottom end has an inlet aperture and an outlet aperture in fluid communication with each other by way of an internal gas passageway which extends through said housing;

(b) the particle container containing particles, said container arranged within the housing and positioned over the outlet; and

(c) the source of compressed gas in sealable communication with the inlet, wherein said source of compressed gas includes an exterior portion which extends away from the housing and an interior portion which extends through the inlet and partially into the gas passageway such that a breach can be made to the interior portion in order to release compressed gas from the source and into the gas passageway.